

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (previously presented): A honeycomb structural body comprising:
a ceramic block made by arranging a plurality of through-holes side by side in a longitudinal direction through partition walls and sealing either one end portions of the through-holes,

wherein the ceramic block is formed with a composite material comprising ceramic particles and amorphous silicon.

Claim 8 (previously presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, wherein the ceramic block is made by bonding a plurality of prismatic ceramic members each having a plurality of through-holes arranged side by side in the longitudinal direction through partition walls with sealing material layers.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, wherein a plurality of through-holes are plugged with a plugging material at one end portion of the ceramic block and through-holes not plugged with the plugging material are plugged with a plugging material at the other end portion thereof.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, wherein the composite ~~member~~ material is a porous ceramics formed by bonding ceramic particles through amorphous silicon.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, wherein the ceramic particle is silicon carbide.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 7, wherein the amorphous silicon has a half-width value of Si peak ($2\theta = \text{about } 28^\circ$) of an X-ray diffraction of not less than 1.0° .

Claim 13 (new): A honeycomb structural body comprising:
a ceramic member having a plurality of through holes that are placed in parallel with one another in a length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween and are sealed at either one end portions of the through holes,
wherein the ceramic member comprises a composite material including ceramic particles and amorphous silicon.

Claim 14 (new): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 13, wherein the plurality of through-holes are plugged with a plugging material at either one end portions of the through holes.

Claim 15 (new): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 13, wherein the composite material is a porous ceramics comprising the ceramic particles bonded one another through the amorphous silicon.

Claim 16 (new): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 13, wherein the ceramic particle is silicon carbide.

Claim 17 (new): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 13, wherein the amorphous silicon has a half-width value of Si peak (2θ = about 28°) of an X-ray diffraction of not less than 1.0° .

Claim 18 (new): A honeycomb structural boy according to claim 13, wherein through-holes plugged at one end portion of the through holes are located adjacent to through-holes plugged at the other end portion of the through holes.

Claim 19 (new): A honeycomb structural boy comprising:
a plurality of ceramic members combined with one another, the ceramic members each having a plurality of through holes extending in parallel with one another in a length direction with partition wall interposed therebetween and are sealed at either one end portions of the through holes,
wherein the plurality of ceramic members each comprise a composite material including ceramic particles and amorphous silicon.

Claim 20 (new): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of ceramic members are arranged side by side in the length direction with sealing material layers therebetween.

Claim 21 (new): A honeycomb structural boy according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of through-holes are plugged with a plugging material at either one end portions of the through holes.

Claim 22 (new): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 19, wherein the composite material is a porous ceramics comprising the ceramic particles bonded one another through the amorphous silicon.

Claim 23 (new): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 19, wherein the ceramic particle is silicon carbide.

Claim 24 (new): A honeycomb structural body according to claim 19, wherein the amorphous silicon has a half-width value of Si peak (2θ = about 28°) of an X-ray diffraction of not less than 1.0° .

Claim 25 (new): A honeycomb structural boy according to claim 19, wherein through-holes plugged at one end portion of the through holes are located adjacent to through-holes plugged at the other end portion of the through holes.